



Forest Health Monitoring Program Report October 5, 2021

This report is intended to share information to forest land managers about forest health damages observed by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division – Forest Health Monitoring Program. Chandler Barton, Forest Health Specialist, conducts aerial survey annually to detect or monitor forest threats. The areas selected in this report may or may not have been ground-checked; please use this information to aid your forest management operations. Please contact me if you require more information or need my assistance.

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On Thursday 23rd, 2021 at 6:45pm an anhydrous ammonia pipeline ruptured in Calhoun County of Hampton Arkansas. The leak was due to a heavy equipment operator puncturing the underground pipeline which is owned and operated by NuStar Energy. Anhydrous ammonia gas is corrosive to cell tissues upon contact and known to be a lung-damaging agent. Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (DEM) issued an evacuation to residents east of Highway 167. The damage to the vegetation was substantial and turned the surrounding trees brown. Arkansas Forestry Division flew a detection flight on October 5th, 2021, 12 days after the exposure. The aerial survey estimated 10,260 acres of severely discolored vegetation with a total of 17,300 acres of damage. We are uncertain at this time how vegetation will recover. Pine timber may be sensitive to this level of chemical damage and stands should be monitored.





Ammonia Vegetation Damage Survey

